

# **Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development in Maryland**

**November 2, 2009/1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**The Maryland Department of Planning**

**Baltimore, Maryland**

## **Meeting Summary**

*Members:* Jon Laria, Karl Brendle, David Carey, Sandy Coyman, John Dillman, Jan Gardner, Carol Gilbert, Teena Green, Richard Hall, Don Halligan, Frank Hertsch, Brigid Kenney, Gerrit Knaap, Dru Schmidt-Perkins

*Attendees:* Jamie Bridges, David Costello, Candace Donoho, Alan Girard, Frank Johnson, Les Knapp, Kurt Fuchs, Rachel McCullough, Cliff Mitchell, John Papagni, Maria Prince, Michael Sanderson, Hara Smith, Mike Sullivan, Barbara Zektick

*MDP Staff:* Dan Baldwin, John Coleman, Amanda Conn, Peter Conrad, Nicole Diehlmann, Roz Hamlett, Rich Josephson, Shawn Kiernan, Jenny King, John Leocha, Shannon Marino, Stephanie Martins, Andy Ratner, Sharon Reichlyn, Pat Russell

### **Welcome/Administrative Matters**

The Chair, Jon Laria, opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m., and encouraged everyone to please try and make an effort to arrive on time. Mr. Laria explained his understanding that people are sometimes arriving from a previous meeting, but agendas are usually pretty full and it is more productive to get started as soon as possible.

Mr. Laria told the Task Force about his mid- October visit to Allegany and Garrett Counties. He was invited by a broad group of Western Maryland folks for a tour and had received letters from constituencies wanting to be heard from Western Maryland. He felt that the visit was positive and shared what the Task Force is doing. He noted that John Nelson, Planning Director of Garrett County, was there as part of the discussion.

Mr. Laria also mentioned a November 2, 2009 Washington Post article about smart growth and a report published in the Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA). The JAPA report was completed by the National Center for Smart Growth. Mr. Knaap noted that he did not choose the headline for the Washington Post article. Mr. Knaap said the Washington Post article tended to focus on Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. He tried to impress that the JAPA article was for all of Maryland and that the Post article should have reflected this fact. It was noted that the Post reporter is interested in this topic.

Mr. Laria said he intends to roll out a meeting schedule for 2010 in advance.

He further noted that State agencies should be prepared to give an update at the December 2, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Laria asked members what they thought about having a special meeting or forum for the Task Force on January 11, 2010. He explained that this will be a special meeting and will include the topic of storm water management regulations. Mr. Laria said details will be forthcoming. Mr. Carey felt that specific examples are good, but since they are just being put into local regulations, it will still be hypothetical.

### Workgroup Updates

#### PFA/Schools Workgroup

Mr. Laria stated that the next two meetings scheduled are November 13<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. The workgroup has reviewed a variety of options. Staff is putting together a matrix of these options; and the workgroup will try and come up with a consensus. Mr. Laria noted that anyone is welcome to participate. Mr. Knaap said the options should be framed for the challenge. Mr. Laria said the schools piece has been making enormous progress and should expect to see the schools portion at the November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the workgroup.

#### Education Workgroup

Ms. Green reported the workgroup had a July 1 mandate and needs to now move to other target audiences. They will be breaking out into simultaneous workgroups and will discuss a new work plan for 2010.

#### Indicators Workgroup

Mr. Coyman said the workgroup came up with two lists of Indicators. The workgroup would like to form a technical group to work on the indicators on list 1. Next steps would include evaluating list 2 from a technical standpoint. Currently the composition of the technical group and criteria for assessing the indicators is being fleshed out. Mr. Coyman said he would like to be ready by the December meeting.

#### Land Preservation/TDR Workgroup

Mr. Dillman said the workgroup has been meeting on a regular basis. They have been working on growth areas and discussing land preservation and what impact the current economy is having on land preservation. Mr. Dillman said the group hopes to complete its work during the first quarter of 2010.

#### Conflicts/Inefficiencies Workgroup

Mr. Hertsch said the workgroup has been working on a survey which needs to be finalized. A copy of the draft survey is anticipated to be distributed at the December meeting. Mr. Laria said he would like to see the survey out this year.

### TDR Workgroup Report

Mr. Dillman presented the TDR Workgroup Report. Mr. Dillman explained that the workgroup examined what individual counties were doing with TDRs and how they are working. The workgroup also looked at why certain counties do not have TDR programs.

Ms. Schmidt- Perkins said she is interested in the feedback, and would like some guidance from the members.

Mr. Hertsch felt the TDR programs typically fund AG programs but felt that TDRs can be used for other worthy goals. Need to assume TDR's are viable. TDRs could be used to fund infrastructure needs. He felt that there should be a consideration of alternative solutions rather than just AG preservation.

Mr. Halligan noted that cost could be an issue and that it would be interesting to look at the capacity of the market.

Mr. Laria said the group needs to look at getting the recommendations implemented and look at what is the next step.

Ms. Perkins inquired about the purpose of the report, and are we making a recommendation of the next steps. She suggested preserving open space, TDR's and how we can do better; also look at a set of actions, and look at how to move forward with this effort.

Mr. Laria said the question is – is it a viable tool kit? Mr. Hertsch added that report should be clear that it is for AG preservation if alternatives to TDR use such as infrastructure expenditures are not mentioned in the report.

#### Revitalization Workgroup Update

Ms. Gilbert advised that the group consists of 28 members. They have met four times over the summer. The group has been identifying tasks and ideas from other jurisdictions to fill those gaps. Ms. Gilbert reviewed the goals and noted there are 12 recommendations and 50 strategies. She raised the issue of where does the State target its revitalization resources. There are ten top revitalization areas and the group reviewed all of the evaluative programs. Ms. Gilbert read through the 12 recommendations. She advised that the workgroup is still trying to finalize some items and has consulted a lot of resources, including Smart Growth America. Mr. Laria said there needs to be a good catalog in one place – need to look at other services; are we missing things; and look at what is implementable.

Mr. Laria inquired about the expected date for report completion? Ms. Gilbert said she expects to send the report out to the workgroup members and see if everyone's ideas have been captured. Ms. Gilbert said she will give an update at the December meeting.

#### State Development Plan Briefing

Mr. Josephson presented an update on PlanMaryland. Mr. Hall noted that the work is in progress. Mr. Josephson asked members to provide comments back to him after reviewing the documents distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Josephson said it is important to get PlanMaryland out there to everyone. He then presented two maps illustrating PFA's and non-development areas. Mr. Josephson said the timeline is tentative. He would like to use the Task Force for active back and forth discussion and feedback.

Mr. Hall indicated that MDP needs to have comments. Would like to make the opening document a little more positive and elaborate on utility and strategy for smart growth.

Mr. Laria inquired about how the Department is thinking about reaching out to people and what is actually next from MDP's perspective.

Mr. Josephson responded that MDP wants to get information to folks so they know there is an effort on the part of the State to complete such a plan. He would like to see a partnership between the State and a coalition of business, environmental, and civic organizations. He would also like to build a broad support early on before this whole effort goes out to the public. Mr. Josephson said we need to use the time between now and the spring to build this support.

Mr. Josephson noted several other items that staff is working on which include ongoing targeted meetings with people. Phase 1 includes developing a list of issues and getting some feedback; need to come up collaboratively to address the issues.

Ms. Schmidt-Perkins questioned the intent of the handouts? Mr. Josephson responded that the purpose is to start a dialogue.

Mr. Knaap expressed that the graphics are good, but no statutory requirement was included in the handouts.

Mr. Laria said we need to ask – what does the Plan mean to me and what is the direction? He felt it was a very good piece, but need to look at the Visions, which he felt are really the State's planning policy. The Visions are too complicated the way they read now. Need to make an effort to make them more readable.

Mr. Coyman suggested talking about what traditionally is the role of the State and then the initiatives.

Mr. Dillman suggested getting at the meat of the report and putting an emphasis on – here's the first steps and we need some feedback.

Mr. Laria said we need some specifics on how we can be your sounding point. The Task Force does not "sign-off" on PlanMaryland.

Mr. Josephson thanked everyone for their comments and asked members to please send him any other suggestions or comments.

Mr. Hall requested that members please get their comments to Mr. Josephson in two weeks, November 16, 2009. An update will be given at the December meeting.

Mr. Laria requested that he be copied on these comments. Mr. Laria advised that even though this is a public forum, please add "Discussion Draft."

### 2010 Task Force Legislation

Members received a “Draft Proposal to Extend the Task Force on the Future for Growth and Development,” which will be used for drafting a Bill to extend the Task Force. Mr. Laria asked members to give their views on the draft proposal. Membership is an issue and it was felt that there are some gaps on the Task Force. A question was raised as to why DNR is not on the Task Force. Mr. Laria felt this Department should be represented. He said members need to identify what they think is missing and what makes sense to add. Mr. Laria also referred to the “Charge” and the need to decide what makes sense about what the Task Force does and what they have already accomplished.

Mr. Laria said he would like to wrap this up at the December meeting with comments.

Mr. Carey suggested having a few more local planners on the Commission.

Mr. Laria noted the need to identify in a more substantive way; for example, DNR. We need to identify what the missing pieces will be.

Ms. Green felt the role of the citizen representative should be defined.

Mr. Halligan asked – who does the Commission report to?

Mr. Laria asked members to think about all of this and either send or save comments for discussion at the December meeting. He also advised members that if they have any really big issues or concerns between now and December, please let him know. He would like to have a fairly compact discussion on the legislation at the December meeting.

### Public Comments

Mr. Clifford Mitchell of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene inquired if the Indicators group had looked at health indicators? Mr. Coyman responded as a category – no; they looked at indicators that make progress for achieving smart growth.

Mr. Mitchell felt that the health of the community has a bearing on smart growth. He expressed having an opportunity to continue this discussion and added that there is a need to think about health as it coordinates with smart growth.

Mr. Halligan distributed copies of Maryland’s Strategic Trails Plan, and advised members they will be able to locate the Executive Summary and the entire Plan on the web.

He also mentioned the November 20<sup>th</sup> Symposium that MDOT, in conjunction with MDE and the University of Maryland is hosting. The focus will be on transportation, growth and economics.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.